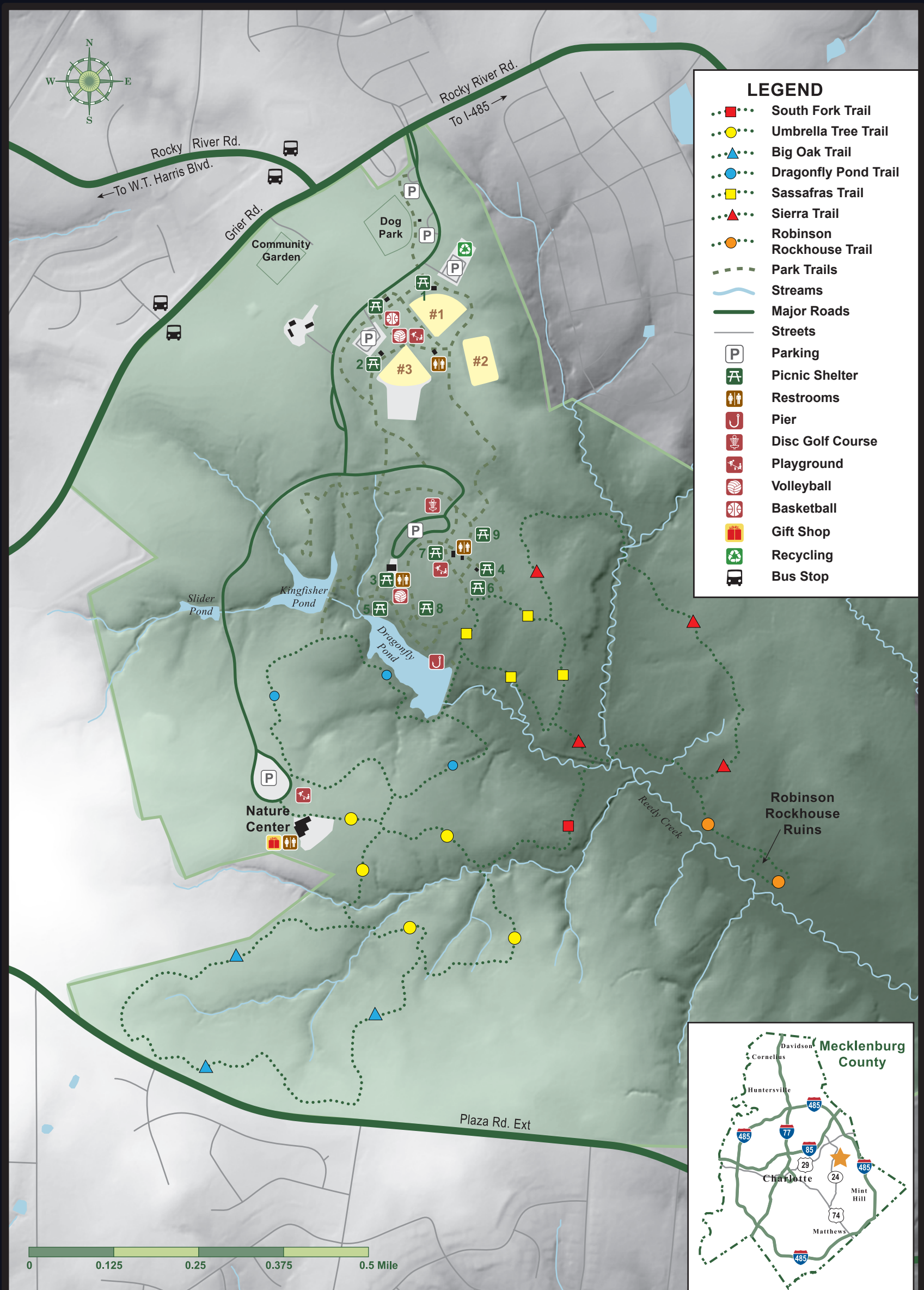




REEDY CREEK
NATURE CENTER



Park and Nature Preserve Map & Guide



Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve
2900 Rocky River Road Charlotte, NC 28215
(980) 314-1119
www.parkandrec.com/Reedy

Reedy Creek Park
Northeast District Park Office
6000 Statesville Road Charlotte, NC 28269
(980) 314-1001

Reedy Creek Nature Center

Monday - Saturday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Sunday 1:00PM to 5:00PM

Hours of Operation

Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve
Open Daily 7:00AM until sunset

Facilities

Reedy Creek Park

- 116 acres
- Numerous recreational and educational opportunities
- Picnic shelters and grills
- Playgrounds, swings, and Panthers Play60
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Fishing pier
- Dog park
- Athletic fields and courts
- Recycling collection center

Reedy Creek Nature Preserve

- 920 acres of natural habitats
- Mixed pine and hardwood forest, open fields, lakes, and streams
- 7 natural- and gravel-surfaced hiking trails
- Historical Robinson Rockhouse ruins

Reedy Creek Nature Center

- Gift shop and restrooms
- Bird viewing area
- Exhibit hall with live animals
- Backyard habitat garden
- Public and private educational programs

The Nature Center offers free and low-cost public programming, including birthday parties, summer camps, guided hikes, and special events.

Nature Preserve Rules

- For your safety, walk with a friend and stay on designated trails
- Hiking trails are only for pedestrians
- Bicycles and motorized vehicles are restricted to paved roads
- Collection, removal, or disturbance of any natural or cultural object is prohibited
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet

Over 10 miles of hiking trails offer outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore a variety of terrains while enjoying scenic views of the small lakes, forests, fields, streams, and wildlife.

Hiking Trails

Dragonfly Pond Trail

- 1 mile trail
- Moderate hike
- Gravel surface with long uphill and downhill sections
- Begins and ends at the parking lot of the Nature Center
- Passes through hardwood forests to the shoreline of Dragonfly Pond. Hikers can find woodland wildflowers and aquatic wildlife, such as mallard ducks, turtles, dragonflies, and beavers.

Sassafras Trail

- 0.6 mile trail
- Easy hike
- Gravel surface with slow uphill and downhill sections
- Begins behind Picnic Shelter 6
- Passes through shady upland hardwood forest of oak and hickory. Provides access to Sierra and Dragonfly Pond Trails.

Umbrella Tree Trail

- 1 mile trail
- Moderate hike
- Natural surface with uphill and downhill sections
- Begins behind the Nature Center
- Passes through some of the most botanically significant areas of the Nature Preserve. Hikers walk through a mature hardwood forest that contains the appropriately named Umbrella Tree (*Magnolia tripeolata*). Large boulders and native sand offer geological interest along the trail.

South Fork Trail

- 0.25 mile trail
- Easy hike
- Natural surface with few uphill and downhill sections
- Connects Umbrella Tree Trail and Sierra Trail
- Passes through rich woodland areas and the stream restoration. Bird watchers and botany enthusiasts will find this trail especially rewarding.

Big Oak Trail

- 1 mile trail
- Easy hike
- Natural and gravel surface, mostly level
- Begins and ends off Umbrella Tree Trail
- Hikers can enjoy scenic views of oak-dominant forest dotted with large boulders. The trail travels around one of Reedy Creek's southern-most tributaries.

Sierra Trail

- 1.5 mile trail
- Moderate hike
- Natural surface with some uphill and downhill sections
- Begins and ends off Sassafras Trail
- Passes through mixed hardwood and pine forest and parts of the stream restoration. This trail was built by volunteers from the Central Piedmont Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Robinson Rockhouse Trail

- 0.15 mile trail
- Easy hike
- Natural surface, mostly level
- Accessed from the Sierra Trail
- This site was excavated by UNC Charlotte archaeology students. The Rockhouse is believed to have been built in 1790. The ruins are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed in Dragonfly Pond. Ages 16 and over are required to have a valid North Carolina fishing license in order to fish. Dragonfly Pond has an accessible fishing pier.

The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department participates in the North Carolina Fishing Tackle Loaner program. Visitors can check out a rod and reel for one day, free of charge, from the Nature Center. Equipment must be returned in good condition. Fishing licenses and bait are not sold at the park.

Biking

Bicycles and motor vehicles are limited to paved surfaces in the nature preserve to limit disturbance, prevent trail erosion, and protect wildlife and sensitive habitats. Mountain bike trails can be found at:

- Jetton Park on Lake Norman
- Sherman Branch
- Ramsey Creek Park
- Renaissance Park
- Colonel Francis Beatty Park
- North Meck Park
- US National White Water Center

In addition, the county has an extensive system of paved Greenway trails, perfect for biking. For more information, go to www.parkandrec.com



- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Nature Preserve.
- Children under the age of 16 are required to wear a helmet while riding bicycles, skateboards, or rollerblades
- No swimming or wading is allowed
- Introduction of plants or animals to the preserve is prohibited

Stream Restoration

Due to human activity, Reedy Creek was a poor-quality habitat due to:

- Eroding stream banks
- Disconnected stream bed and floodplain
- Channelized stream

After a long process, the stream is back to its natural function, and flora and fauna are coming back. Vernal pools are once again home to amphibians, the stream is accessible to wildlife, erosion has been significantly reduced, and the floodplain along the stream has been restored.

You can help us track changes over time by using your camera or phone. Snap a picture and post it on any social media platform. Tag it with #newreedycreek.



Educational Programs

Reedy Creek Nature Center staff develop and present a variety of environmental education and nature programs at the Nature Center for the general public, schools, teachers, and other organizations. For more information, call the Nature Center at (980) 314-1119.